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LB 149

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...of 149.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. For discussion on the bracket motion, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, if Senator Coordsen would like to use my time to begin with, I would pass it along to him, since he gave up his time. You're okay? All right. I also passed out a sheet to you and probably by now you're completely inundated with sheets. This is a budget sheet that was passed out to you a little while ago, but as I understand the process to be to pull the motion eventually and to give you a chance to digest all of the information relevant to the decision, I wanted to pass out to you again the preliminary budget sheet that had been passed out to you earlier and point how...how I think the \$22 million fits into our budget. It doesn't have an A bill, you might note, just for process purposes. That's because we have to pass this before the Appropriations Committee bills are passed. So this \$22 million then just gets built into the mainline appropriations bill when that comes along to be passed. Therefore, it doesn't require an A bill like all the other ones that are passed after the mainline appropriations bills are passed. So you're not dealing with something that's an A bill. You're dealing with something that's a reduction...what you'd call a reduction in revenue or a continuing appropriation, depending I suppose on how you wanted to characterize it. But you may recall that when we talked about Senator Brown's 3 percent resolution, we were talking about how much we wanted to spend overall in a budget, and we talked about 3 percent on the low side and what that would mean; whether we could have any A bills; we couldn't have any A bills given what the Appropriations Committee had spent already. And then you heard Senator Kristensen argue that perhaps we should do essentially what we've always been doing, kind of following personal income. If you look at the bottom of the sheet I passed out, you can see, what, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, or nine different scenarios. Looking over on the right-hand side, you can see all the way from 3.2 percent total spending growth over this year and what that means in terms of A bills and in terms of monies available to reduce revenues if you didn't have A bills. In other words, there's money there